

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the outstanding rejections of claims 1-4 and 13 under 35 USC 112, 35 USC 102(e), 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) have been rendered moot with no admission as to their propriety. Claims 5, 11 and 14 have been amended. Claims 5-12 and 14 are pending.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Applicants have amended claim 14, without narrowing its scope, to address the Examiner's concerns.

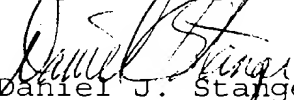
The various rejections of defendant claims 6-10 have been addressed by making them dependent, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 5. Independent claims 5, 11 and 14 have been amended to correct minor informalities, also without narrowing the scope.

Serial No. 09/856,758

ASA-1003

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,  
Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and  
allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Daniel J. Stanger  
Registration No. 32,846  
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR  
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-1120  
Date: June 17, 2003